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## DRVN Health Service Face to War Tasks

by Dr. PHAM NGOC THACH

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Quang Nam province  
PLAF men in action

## ON SAIGON FRONT

# PLAF HOLD THE IN SUCCESSFUL

# INITIATIVE ATTACKS

## "New Thinking" in Saigon or a New Bluff

**A**MBASSADOR E. BUNKER met Nguyen Van Thieu five times before going to Washington. After conferring with his envoy, U.S. President Nixon declared that "private talks" would be the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. Almost at the same moment, in Saigon Nguyen Van Thieu stated that his administration was ready to enter into "private talks" with the South Viet Nam NFL. The Thieu statement received a warm welcome from the State Department's spokesmen.

So, the whole show was carefully prepared and went off smoothly.

But, those who have been concerned over the developments in the Paris Conference are wondering what will be the subject of "private talks" and

what will be their results? Some people may think there is something new on the American side which would end the present deadlock of the Paris negotiations. Some others may consider that Mr. Nixon has succeeded in gaining time at a moment when he is not in a position to define clearly a concrete policy regarding Viet Nam. Mistrust in the good faith of both Thieu and Nixon is prevalent. And not without reason.

**W**HEN negotiations are agreed upon between parties concerned the form of negotiations is important, but not to the extent of becoming a decisive factor of their success. How could "private talks" suggested by Nguyen Van Thieu be more productive than the present

open parity, if Washington persists in its aggressive policy in South Viet Nam?

Mr. Nixon affirmed that his administration was resolved to secure an honorable peace in Viet Nam. So did Mr. Rogers before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on March 27. However, it is obvious to everyone that the White House's Viet Nam policy remains ambiguous.

On the other hand, what is left in no doubt is a set of facts which are aggravating the situation. In South Viet Nam, mention should be made of the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique in spite of the insistence of large sections of the urban people on their removal at the earliest date; bombings.

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**OPERATION ATLAS WEDGE AT  
DAU TIENG: 2,000 GIs Put Out of  
Action, 210 Vehicles, 30 Cannons, 12 Chop-  
pers Destroyed.**

**TAY NINH REGION: 700 Enemy  
Casualties in 11 Days.**

**XUAN LOC SECTOR: 8 Puppet  
Companies Wiped Out.**

**4,200 Enemy Soldiers Knocked Out South  
and South-East of DA NANG and in the  
Western HIGH PLATEAUX in Two Weeks.**

## North Viet Nam

**Two U.S. pilotless planes downed over Haiphong  
on March 31 and April 3, 1969.**

**Total loss of U.S. aircraft since August 5, 1964:**

**3,275**

Since Nixon's coming to power

## U.S. Stepped-Up Infringement on Sovereignty and Threats to Security of DRVN

In the first half of November 1968 the number of sorties of American planes violating the sovereignty and threatening the security of the DRVN ran to 196. Since Nixon's coming to power, this figure rose to 400 for the last ten days of January 1969 and to 400 for the period from February up to the end of March.

Particularly serious were the air strikes and shelling of American bases based south of the DMZ, or from the 7th Fleet operating in the Tonkin Gulf.

In March alone, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the DRVN seven times denounced crimes perpetrated by the U.S. against the DRVN. Three days after Nixon's inauguration from January 23 to 26, B-52s dropped 700 tons of bombs on Quang Binh province. According to still incomplete figures released by the Committee

of Investigation of the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Viet Nam, the districts of that province were the targets of 6 air raids in March alone: districts of Ho Trach and Minh Hoa on March 1, Le Thuy on March 9, Bo Trach again on March 15, 18 and 19, Son Kien village, Huong Son district, Ha Tinh province, over 200 km north of the 17th parallel was raided on March 10.

These acts of war show that Nixon persists in Johnson's criminal adventure and is stepping up the infringement upon the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN. He must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

## U.S. - PUPPET CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

### Over 400 Civilians Thrown into the Sea

According to the April 2, 1969 statement of the South Viet Nam NLF Permanent Representative to the North, between January 13 and February 3, 1969, over 8,000 GIs, puppet and satellite troops, commanded by General Conkey, raided Ha Lang An area composed of the villages of Binh Chau, Binh Phu, Binh Tan, Son

My, Son Hai, Son Quang, in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts, Quang Ngai province. Aircraft, tanks, armoured cars, bombs (including phosphorus bombs) were used to destroy everything: dwelling houses, property, fruit trees, rice fields and gardens; more than 1,000 people most of them oldagers, women, and

children, were herded into the Van Thanh concentration camp, then An Mount, north of Quang Ngai provincial capital.

Infringed by such savagery the camp inmates rose against the Yankees and their agents and forced them to move 4,000 people to other camps in Feb. 1969.

Before dispersing the Van Thanh concentration camp, the Yankees and their quislings had forcefully shipped 400 civilians to Can Ranh, allegedly to "settle" them there. Most of these 400 people who were members of families of former resistance members or families suspected of having connection with revolutionaries, were thrown into the sea. Nearly all of the victims' corpses were washed back the waves onto the shore. When they learned of this heinous crime, the Quang Ngai inhabitants sent a number of puppet troops indignantly denounced and demanded the Yankees and their agents who, embarrassed and panic-stricken, tried to exculpate themselves with a "shipwreck" tale.

Questioning of a "Viet Cong" suspect. There is always an American

### 350 People Killed in a Bombardment

Gia Phong Press Agency reported a heavy bombardment on February 10, of U.S. planes and artillery of Cong Ho Kinh, 22 km north of Kontum Town and along

Reprinted from "Le Nouvel Observateur"

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## PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 11th SESSION

An indictment of U.S. criminal designs and acts in Viet Nam was brought in by Mr. Xuan Thuy and Mr. Tran Van Kiem at the 11th session of the Paris conference on Viet Nam (April 3, 1969).

The American rulers, they stressed, claimed that they are not escalating the war, but their deeds, some of which were denounced by many U.S. Congressmen, testify to the contrary: intensification of bombing raids and repression against the urban people in South Viet Nam, operations conducted by U.S. troops against Laos, increasing violations of Cambodia's territory, boosting of Saigon puppet

army's strength and greater supply of equipment to it. The Americans "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, is but a scheme to "play off Vietnamese against Vietnamese" with a view to achieving U.S. neo-colonialism. Their assertion that U.S. troops will withdraw when the puppet army is in a position to replace them, is only a pretext to keep indefinitely GIs in South Viet Nam, since the decaying puppet army can never be put back on its feet.

The DRVN and NLF envoys strongly denounced the manoeuvre behind the American rulers' statements about "private talks" and the so-

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## "New Thinking"

Viet Nam, DRVN sovereignty is encroached upon and her security threatened daily and bombings are carried out repeatedly against many of her localities. In Laos, U.S. marines are engaged in actions supposedly aimed at "protecting" American troops in South Viet Nam. Almost every day, U.S. and South Viet Nam aircraft are attacking Cambodia's border regions. In the meantime, Mr. Cabot Lodge is fulfilling of the Thien Ky-Huong trinitate and reiterating his proposals which have no way instrumental in bringing about the immediate and definitive cessation of the U.S. war of aggression.

In such conditions, how can present negotiations in Paris get out of their deadlock which has resulted from the lack of U.S. good will, or rather from U.S. deliberate obstruction?

WASHINGTON was perfectly aware that its suggestion of "private talks between Saigon and the NLF" held no water. It nevertheless put it forward for avoidable and unavoidable purposes.

Mr. Nixon has been in the White House for more than two months, but he is still unable to give an explicit and clear-cut answer to such questions as "Is he continuing or stopping the war against the Yankees and their agents who, embarrassed and panic-stricken, tried to exculpate themselves with a 'shipwreck' tale."

What Nguyen Van Thieu put forth as an initiative of his is actually only a manoeuvre of the White House. The so-called "new thinking" in Saigon - as certain propagandists termed it - is nothing but a "private talks" proposed by the U.S. puppet army. It is only natural that the "private talks" proposed by the U.S. puppet army, which is the NLF and pooh-poohed by progressive opinion.

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## THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

## Health Service Face to War Tasks

Dr. Pham Ngoc Thach, DRVN late Health Minister, deputy to the National Assembly, Hero of Labour, died on November 7, 1968 while conducting scientific researches on the battlefield. Following are excerpts from a report he wrote before going up the line. (Ed.)

FROM the situation in the North during the past three years heavy but glorious tasks have arisen for the Health Service: to give attention to the wounded victims of U.S. bombings; to deal with U.S.-schemed chemical and bacteriological warfare; and as a routine to prevent epidemics and to look after the health of our cadres and people.

During over ten years' peaceful construction, under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a relatively widespread medical network has been set up in the North from town to country, from the deltas to mountains. At the beginning of the resistance against the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction, the Health Service realized that its primary task was to build a widespread and efficient regional medical network along the line: "Village to provide first aid, districts to act as villages' bases and provinces to assist districts."

In the whole organizational work of the branch, the development and strengthening of basic medical set-ups in our efforts to foil the U.S. war of destruction has been the most important and urgent problem. Up to the end of 1967, 80 per cent of co-operatives, 100 per cent of villages in the delta, and 90 per cent of villages in the highland were provided with a medical station; almost all these establishments were in a position to deal with cases of shock, haemorrhage, fracture, a number of them could perform minor surgical operations on lying-in mothers and ordinary surgery; 10 per cent of the wounded have received first aid in villages were sent to hospital in a sufficiently satisfactory state to undergo surgical operations or to get further medical attention. Quang Binh province, worst hit by enemy bombardments, imaginatively built a village first-aid station network with medical official assistants into one capable of efficiently handling cases of urgency imposed by the state of war, of successfully combining prophylactic hygiene with curative hygiene, medicine with pharmacy, and Eastern medicine with Western medicine. The medical network, in 1967, 96 per cent of patients and 80 per cent of urgencies in the province were handled in the past (the percentage of patients treated in hospital was 4 per cent of 1969). By associating practical experiences with theoretical knowledge on modern medicine, over the past three years of 1969 only about 30 hospitals in towns and cities could attend to complicated surgical operations after the group of anti-U.S. assistance, more than 300

hospitals, including most of district hospitals, have been able to do so despite war conditions. A number of district hospitals, especially those in Quang Binh, a war-torn land, have been able to do complicated surgical operations on the skull, liver, spleen, lungs, arteries, and so on. Three years ago were beyond the capacity of many provincial hospitals. In a word, thanks to the extension of the emergency surgical operation network, especially in villages and districts, improvement of its working capacity, over the past three years of fighting against the U.S. war of destruction, the death-rate in urgency cases in the North was the lowest.

Village and district hospitals also have stepped up a comprehensive manner prophylactic and curative hygiene as well as medicine and pharmacy, through the development of hygiene and epidemiology stations and organizations for mothers and children's welfare and for fighting trachoma, malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy at district level, and through hygiene and preventive inoculation drives in villages. It is thanks to the work of the basic health service for the welfare of mothers and children that the rate of childbirth and infant mortality in the North is very low.

According to the "lighten the task of provincial hospitals and increase the ability of village and district hospitals" principle, the former have contributed an important part to improving the quality of work of the latter by supplying them with qualified personnel and equipment including hospital-beds. Reversely, thanks to the development and strengthening of the capacity of village and district hospitals, the provincial hospitals have been in a better position to cope with such work as prophylactic and curative hygiene, production and supply of medicines, training of staff and scientific research. Most of provincial hospitals have their own specialties which are fairly modernly equipped and can do more and more complicated work.

In the conditions created by dispersion, the centrally and locally run hospitals have done their best to fulfil two basic tasks, the training of personnel and improvement of their professional standards and the conducting of scientific researches. The cadres of central level train district cadres and the latter in turn instruct village cadres. The College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy also form a higher contingent than in peace time (the percentage of students in 1967 nearly doubled that of 1969). By associating practical experiences with theoretical knowledge on modern medicine, over the past three years of 1969 only about 30 hospitals in towns and cities could attend to complicated surgical operations after the group of anti-U.S. assistance, more than 300

of pharmacists 2.2 times that of assistant doctors 1.7 times and that of assistant pharmacists 1.5 times (not including medical workers instructed in villages).

Because of the war, the themes of scientific researches have been closely connected with reality especially with that of the countryside, with war urgencies and with prevention and treatment of the injuries obtained in attending to cases of trauma caused by wounds without relying mainly on blood transfusion, of burns, fractures, skull injuries as in the use of some medicines and in the treatment which combines Eastern medicine with Western medicine, have brought the Vietnamese medical circles a clearer realization of the line of their researches which favours a combined use of modern scientific knowledge and traditional experiences of the nation for a speedy and satisfactory solution of immediate problems and subsequent theoretical investigation.

THE above-mentioned achievements can be first ascribed to the Party's leadership. Instructions and resolutions issued by the Party Central Committee on the new situation and tasks in general and medical work in particular have provided early guidance for the medical personnel to adjust themselves to the war conditions.

policy and their growing political consciousness.

Another factor of our achievements in the medical field in the past three years has been the warm support of the peoples of the socialist countries and the world. The socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union and China, have supplied us with surgical instruments, equipment for hospitals and field hospitals, drug-producing apparatuses as well as medical literature. Progressives in the world especially in France, Japan, Italy, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, West Germany and also the U.S. have sent us medicines, hospital and other equipment and chemical products.

The direct and decisive cause of our health achievements is the fact that we possess a strong contingent of medical staff. Educated by the Party and trained by practical work, this army has been firm in its work by the spirit of self-reliance and self-reliance; enterprising and independent, it has been fearless of difficulties and has been efficiently serving production and the fighting and at the same time has paved the way for the branch's eventual rapid development after the war.

WITH the Party's leadership and the support and assistance of the people, our Health Service



In North Viet Nam countryside, many families have their well and bath-room

The second factor of success has been the warm support of the people. Over the past three years, led by the Party and government at various levels, the co-ordinating, education and agitation of the masses with production and the fighting, many villages, districts and provinces have completed their hygiene propagation work in a short time. Up to the end of 1967, in 15 provinces from 70 to 100 percent of households were provided with double-compartment latrines; in 12 provinces, from one to three households share a well, and in 8 provinces, from 2 to 4 households a bath-room. Our successful checking of such epidemics as cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever, dysentery has been possible thanks to the group of our people of the Party's health

will surely fulfil the task entrusted to it by the Party and people. It will certainly make headway and satisfactorily fulfil the great revolutionary tasks set for our people that it always abides by the Party's three principles: all the Party members and people see to health protection; preventive hygiene comes first; Western medicine to be combined with Eastern medicine - and if it closely links medical work with labour and production, the fighting and the needs of the people's life, co-ordinating various branches, organizations, enterprises, co-operatives, pushes up propaganda and agitation work among the masses, and the Party work into a common concern of the people led by the Party.

# WHILE "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION"?

PACIFICATION "MANU  
MILITARY"

ACCORDING to the American press, since late 1968, the Americans and the Saigon puppets have been trying a politico-military programme called "accelerated pacification". As revealed by Jacques Foisie in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted by *USIS* on Jan. 3 this year, the date chosen for its launching was Nov. 1, 1968.

The objectives contemplated by the enemy command as indicated by many statements from American and puppet responsible officials and some leak-outs in the Western press can be summarized in the following points:

**Militarily**, "accelerated pacification" is a big up for the so-called "clear-and-hold" strategy designed to check attacks and popular uprisings in cities and key strategic areas. It has also a long-term objective, help the aggressors tap the man-power and material resources of these areas to pursue their aggression.

**Politically**, as Washington feels a political settlement of the war inevitable, "accelerated pacification" will have to clamp down the control, if only formal, of the puppet administration on as many South Viet Nam population centres as possible in order to strengthen its political hand and to be able to produce a favourable war map at the Conference which was to open in Paris following the unconditional cessation of U.S. action on Dec. 31. The objective set for the first 3 months of the campaign would be, according to *Newsweek* (Jan-6 1969), to "pacify", at least symbolically, 1,200 hamlets. This is what the Western press terms as "flag-planting operation".

The means resorted to have nothing in common with a "pacification" measure as those who have set on foot this programme try to make it sound like by naming it "pacification". It is really military "mopping-up" and occupation operations, or operations of regroupment of civilians in areas supposedly susceptible of being controlled, militarily, by US-puppet forces. To make people "see reason", the latter use terror, mass murder arrests and torture in interrogation of the suspected by US-puppet forces. To make people "see reason" in this way, the forces involved will proceed to the establishment of the puppet administration apparatus and, if required by circumstances, put on it an attractive face with measures called economic aid.

To prepare the ground for "accelerated pacification" campaigns, operations *Phongiz* have been mounted. These consist in dispatching into areas out of US-puppet control commandos, secret agents and hired killers whose job it is to identify local militants and patriotic organizations, assassinate cadres and draw up "black lists" in order to facilitate the ultimate destruction of the NLF infrastructure.

The theatre chosen for these "accelerated pacification" operations is the areas surrounding main cities and bases or adjoining key communication lines vital for the US-puppets.

A FUTILE  
"SHOW-OFF" MOVE

SO, "accelerated pacification" appeared as a "show-off" move decided on in hot haste while the US-puppets were driven onto the defensive militarily while the puppet regime was giving way everywhere (1) and while it was increasingly evident that sooner or later the US would have to go to the conference table. It turned out to be part of the US effort to revamp the tottering puppet regime and "Vietnamize" the war so as to maintain Washington neo-colonialist hegemony in the Southern part of our country.

However, after more than 4 months since it was launched, "accelerated pacification" has brought but bitter disappointment to the US-puppets.

One of the first large-scale operations of this kind was started in mid-November 1968 about 20km from the centre of Ho Nam, "the biggest US base in Southeast Asia". On this occasion, the regional forces and guerrillas of Dien Ban district, after 41 days of fighting, killed 100 troops comprising GIs, South Korean mercenaries and soldiers of the puppet regime, a favourable war map on them: 2,000 casualties, some 20 aircraft brought down and several dozen military vehicles destroyed.

Since then, other actions against areas outlying Saigon, especially in the provinces of Long An and Hau Nghia, and against villages of fishermen and peasants in the Ba Lang An peninsula southeast of the US Chu Lai base, etc., have proved as disastrous as the previous one.

Meanwhile, more than any figure of the enemy losses, however high, the simultaneous attacks launched by the PLAF on the night of Feb. 22 last, attacks which are still going on without any sign of being "out of steam", spelled out in a masterly manner the dismal failure of this new US tactics. As a matter of fact, it would have been simply impossible for the NLF to mount such a well-coordinated series of offensives against 400 different targets in almost all provinces of South Viet Nam if the "accelerated pacification" campaigns had yielded some kind of result.

INURABLE  
ORIGINAL DEFECT

THE obvious bankruptcy of the American strategists in South Viet Nam came as no surprise to us that without any equivalent with developments in Viet Nam.

Following the famous Tet offensives and the continual and powerful onslaught of the South Viet

Nam armed forces and people, following the disastrous defeat of the war of destruction against the DRVN with the unconditional cessation of U.S. raids on North Viet Nam, the aggressive will of the Yankee imperialists was seriously shaken, while the puppets were in complete disarray for fear that their bosses would let them down or again "change horses in mid-stream". Defeatism spread among the U.S. satellite and puppet troops and was evidenced by the growing rate of desertions, mutinies and rebellions. The "pacification" teams had not been spared by this general crisis. Their strength was drained dry during the popular attacks, especially in 1968. To fill the gap in their ranks, the enemy has no other resources than a recourse either to the service of adventurers of all stripes or to the forced enrolment of public servants and students, which course of action deprives the teams of the last shreds of their credit. Furthermore, local tyrants with whom rests most of the effectiveness of the "accelerated pacification" operations have been mostly made away with, neutralized or forced into exile to escape the punishment of the people. This shows a sharp contradiction between the political aims, very perfidious and the capacities, rather limited, of the enemy. In such conditions it is futile to try to "root out" the NLF, since the influence of the latter keeps growing rapidly with the people of South Viet Nam and the world at large.

What is more, the brutal means used under the "accelerated pacification" programme exacerbate to the highest degree the conflict between our people and the U.S. aggressors and rouse the entire people to stand up against the enemy. This explains the heavy adverse losses in areas where no main force of the PLAF is committed. Popular opposition has touched off uprisings which have completely destroyed vast areas in which the people have been concentrated to be kept under closer watch, as in Buon Ho on the Western Highlands on Dec. 28 last. In this way, the US-puppets have, so to say, made for themselves real petards by which they are sure to be hoist.

It is thus clear that, beaten on the political plane, and resorting to violence of unparalleled savagery to control the population, the enemy has branded the "accelerated pacification" programme with an original defect which dooms it to utter failure.

SIMPLE "PACIFICATION" AND  
"ACCELERATED PACIFICATION"

AS everybody knows, since the 1955-1960 dry season counter-offensive, Westerners had found that without "pacification", it would be absolutely impossible for him to regain the initiative which had slipped from his hands. This gave rise to the so-called "two-prong" strategy carried out after 1960 with fresh

and key-up troops brought in en masse from the U.S. As also known to everybody, this strategy, however, came also to a full stop.

What chance of success can "accelerated pacification" expect in the present US-puppet more critical defensive posture and at a time when the morale of their troops is at its lowest ebb and their strength has been severely depleted by the 1968 actions?

To ensure the defence of cities and bases, the present forces are already far from being adequate. How then can they scrape up enough manpower to effectively occupy the pacification areas, although those are confined for some preferential sectors? (2) The "troop concentration and dispersion" dilemma, already very puzzling in the "clear-and-hold" strategy, becomes aggravated with this "accelerated pacification".

The previous collapse of simple "pacification" was imputed to the impossibility of ensuring the safety for the "pacifiers". If this conclusion of the U.S. Command contains some bits of truth, one strongly doubts whether its new scheme will fare better now that it is at a greater disadvantage. Before speaking anything shows that it is caught in a vicious circle: for lack of a military shield, "pacification", it is now going to make of "accelerated pacification" a shield for its military set-up.

Washington has acknowledged that "pacification" must be conducted by the puppet troops only and that the participation of GIs in this undertaking will harm the results. Yet, considering its sad plight, the puppet army is absolutely incapable of fulfilling any task not even that of "house mother" assigned it by the Americans. That is why the burden again falls on US troops. *US Time* magazine disclosed on Dec. 20, 1968 that nearly a half of the operations conducted by the GIs at that time was meant to support the "accelerated pacification" programme. In fact, all the U.S. divisions have been thrown into the undertaking and even the First Air Cavalry which forms the mobile reserve has been spread thin to this effect on a 100km front Northeast of Saigon.

FROM POLITE SMILE TO  
SNIGGLE

ANOTHER factor of prime importance on which depends the success or ingenuity of "accelerated pacification" is the PLAF reaction. In its Jan. 6, 1969 *Newsweek* made no bones about it. It quoted a U.S. district adviser in South Viet Nam as revealing that "2 of his newly secured hamlets have already been de-secured" by the PLAF and concluded, "All it takes is a couple of VC and ten minutes, and you've lost what may represent weeks of work."

Already before the post-Tet attacks, the enemy command had to extend 100% the time allotted for

the pacification of the first 1,200 hamlets fixed at the beginning. One can easily imagine what has come of this objective now, after Feb. 23.

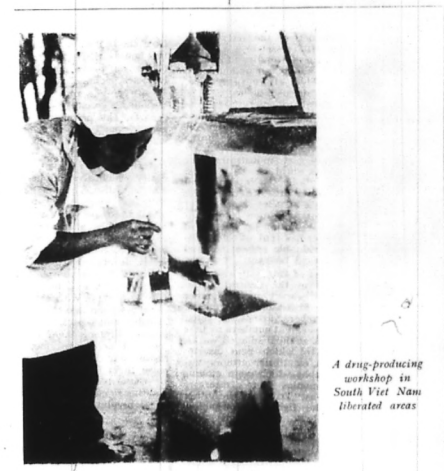
The propaganda services of Saigon and Washington however have not ceased bragging about the "successes" obtained in this field. Nevertheless, in a most recent article (Mar. 3, 1969) *Newsweek* commented that to many old Viet Nam hands, this all seems just a little too good to be true. The same magazine added that no sign of military weakness had been seen on the part of the NLF and that in these conditions, the "accelerated pacification" programme always remained illusory.

And here is a recent AFP dispatch: "When told of (puppet) Premier Tran Van Huong's recent announcement that the (puppet) administration's intention was to pacify the country 100 per cent in 1969, some officers smiled politely, but others sniggered."

Whether this new "accelerated pacification" programme A U.S. officer was reported by *Newsweek* to have foreseen for the US puppet scheme the following alternative (Mar. 3, 1969): this program is a bombshell. It is either going to be an amazing success or a dismal failure. Everything induces us to predict, unfailingly, that it is the second eventuality that is coming to pass.

(1) The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported on Nov. 4, 1968 that it was felt in Saigon that the collapse of the Thien region was a matter of time.

(2) To give an idea of the size of the force needed to conduct an "accelerated pacification" operation, we again quote the following figures from the Western press: 3,000 men, in a 2-week operation in the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost sector of the country, 8,000 in the operation against 3 villages of Gia Lang An, etc.



A drug-producing workshop in South Viet Nam liberated areas

HERE I am back again at SV (Rach Gia) after a long absence. The region has been repeatedly bombed by U.S. aircraft and artillery. The aggressors are bent on suppressing the green of life and the ring of laughter. They want to cover the whole area with a pall of mourning. But life has got the better of them: it is surging forward...

Lost in thought, I didn't notice that the boat had entered the canal. A familiar voice came from the bank woke me up: it was old Mrs Muoi's. Holding a lamp with one hand, she pulled me ashore with the other. A crowd was walking along the embankment, talking and laughing. Most of the people were

me at the gate to go to evening class. Old Muoi is turned 60. Yet he is an activist in the educational drive in the region.

I talked to him about the recent victories won by our armed forces and people in their winter-spring campaign. After taking a sip of tea, he gave a joyous laugh. "Well," he said "as for me I'll look after education in this hamlet. You remember, don't you, how things were? The children did nothing but romp and quarrel. So, together with a few friends, I set about building a school. Oh, just a bamboo hut, but quite roomy. Then we managed to find a teacher. At first only a few kids came; now there are 30 of them. The hamlet people

Ninh: the husband looks after the children when his wife goes to class, and vice versa. And the Hais, who live across the channel: she is with child, but never misses a class; she gets encouragement from her husband. Too, Muoi's wife helps the women with their study: yet she has a numerous family and is now pregnant..."

His eyes became misty as he evoked the past, but his voice was firm: "Don't you remember, Sau? When the hamlet was occupied by the enemy, people were threatened with arrest and massacre at every turn. How could they think about getting an education. Besides, there was no school."

Life in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam

## ALL THE HAMLET GO TO SCHOOL

women. "Say, Mum, where are they going?" I asked. "They are in very high spirits, aren't they?" Mrs Muoi smiled and removed a lock of white hair which had fallen on her eye. "They are going to school," she said. "They all live in this hamlet: Mrs Tu, Mrs Sau, Hai's wife, Ut Dai's wife... There won't soon be any illiterate people left. I too am going to class..."

The light flickered with each of her steps. Her shadow spread on the path. Leaves rustled in the breeze. When we came to her house, she left

have built enough air raid shelters for all."

Puffing away at his cigarette, he added: "They are wonderful kids. In the recent drive, together with their teacher, they sharpened over 1,000 spikes for the booby-traps and planted more than 4,000 saplings in the woods. They were quite active in the recent drive to encourage the youth to enlist in the liberation forces: among the seven young people joining the armed forces several were from the school itself. The teacher has been elected an outstanding activist in the district educational movement."

"Is that the only school in the hamlet?" I asked.

"There is another one, Uncle Hai teaches there, both day-school and evening classes. So, we have two schools for a total of thirty households! Almost all the kids go to class. So do most of the grown-ups."

"I think your evening classes are thriving! I just saw many women going to class in high spirits."

"Yes, we have seven classes grouping 47 people. Many have learnt to read and write. They are quite eager to learn. Take for instance the

Songs came from a neighbour's radio set. I left Old Muoi to pay a visit to the evening class.

Standing before the blackboard and holding her lamp in one hand, Mrs Muoi was pointing a stick at the letters written on it. The lamp flickered with every gust of breeze. Mrs Tu was reading aloud. After finishing a sentence, she drew a long breath, smiled and resumed her reading. The entire class were following her attentively. Whenever she made a mistake, the "teacher" corrected it.

A feeling of pride filled my heart as I looked at their white hair. I was proud of our people's fighting spirit and love of study. In this hamlet, the women as well as their menfolk work and fight in the daytime and study at night, amidst reports of American artillery.

Soon, the entire hamlet will be freed from illiteracy. As runs a saying, "the clearer grow their eyes, the clearer their minds".

In every corner of the land, a spring breeze is blowing...

T. N.  
South Viet Nam

Books on South Viet Nam

### THE IVORY COMB

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Second edition

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Giai Phong Editions, South Viet Nam 1969

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## VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

### "100 Million Francs for Viet Nam" - A Loyal Manifestation of International Proletarianism



Street demonstration by Tokyoans on March 16, 1969 for an end to the Viet Nam war, Ohnawa's return to Japan and cancellation of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

#### Japanese People Support Viet Nam

WORK support for the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation was voiced at meetings and demonstrations held by about 500,000 Japanese workers, students, and members of other segments of the Japanese people on March 16 (National Day of the United States) in 73 places in 40 provinces to promote the setting up of the united front against the U.S. and the South reactionary authorities.

At a 150,000-strong meeting called by the Japanese Communist Party in Tokyo, Sanzo Nosaka, Chairman of the Central Committee, warmly hailed the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. for national salvation and denounced the South reactionary authorities' collusion with the US imperialists in the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The Japanese CP leader said:

"The heroic Vietnamese people have dealt a heavy blow at the US imperialists. At the same time their resistance is vigorously encouraging the struggle of the world's peoples."

The participants approved a statement calling on the Japanese people to further step up their action against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, demand that the U.S. dismantle all its military bases in Japan, and oppose the production and shipment of U.S. military goods.

Such an action, the statement continued, is one of international solidarity taken in coordination with the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples of the world.

Meetings and demonstrations for the same purpose were staged in Osaka, Yokohama, Fukuoka and other cities etc..

#### 1,000 American Women Demonstrate in Front of the White House

ABOUT 1,000 American women staged on March 20 a demonstration in front of the White House and marched to the Capitol with slogans urging immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and cessation of the war in Viet Nam, reports from the United States said.

The demonstration was held by the "Women's Strike for Peace." Many of them dressed in mourning carried black balloons and placards

with slogans reading "Get out of Viet Nam!"

Many other groups of women coming from various states joined in the demonstration.

A car drove from Washington to New York with this bold-type inscription on display: "My son was killed in Viet Nam. Whose fault?"

The demonstrators handed in at the White House a letter to Nixon pressing for

THE "100 million francs for Viet Nam" movement launched in France since March 23 1969 by the National Committee of Action to Support the Vietnamese People until Victory" headed by comrade Waldeck Rochet, Secretary General of the French Communist Party, has ended in success. Within two months of the French people contributed nearly 103 million francs, exceeding the target figure by nearly 3 million francs.

The movement is a forceful demonstration of the long standing militant friendship between the peoples of both countries. In the gloomy days under the domination of French colonialism, the national liberation movement of the Vietnamese people always enjoyed wholehearted support and assistance from the French Communist Party, workers and toiling people. In the nine years' resistance war of the Vietnamese people, the French laboring people, led by the French Communist Party, kept up a widespread and powerful movement in support of Viet Nam, which greatly contributed to Viet Nam victory over French colonialism, since the U.S. aggression against our country, the

French workers and toiling people, holding aloft the banner of international proletarianism have been supporting with might and main our people anti-US struggle, for national salvation. Tens of thousands of demonstration meetings and other actions have taken place throughout France, involving a great number of workers, youths, intellectuals and democratic and progressive people to support and help our people materially and spiritually in the fight against the aggressors.

With the backing of the world's peoples, and of the French people, our people have won tremendous victories. But as a result of the American aggressors' stubbornness the nearer our struggle to its end, the greater are our difficulties and hardships. Faithfully interpreting the thought and sentiments of the French people in this new stage of the Vietnamese people's resistance war against U.S. aggression, comrade Waldeck Rochet said that "the task for all peoples, including the French people, is to bring the greatest pressure to bear on the US authorities to end their aggression in Viet Nam, to withdraw their troops from

South Viet Nam, dismantle their puppet base in the South and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves." It is at this juncture that meetings and rallies in support of Viet Nam have taken place throughout France, on the last position of the DRVN delegation and NFL delegation at the Paris conference. On the other hand, President Nixon's arrival in Paris was protested by tens of thousands of the French people. On the call of the French Communist Party, poured out into the street and staged a strong demonstration. The successful "100 million francs in support of Viet Nam" drive is a proof of the French people's eagerness to strengthen their militant solidarity with the Vietnamese people at the present stage of the latter's struggle.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese people express their sincere gratitude to the National Committee to Support the Vietnamese People until Victory, the French Communist Party, and to the French workers, intellectuals and progressive people and peace fighters.

### Thanks To Our European Friends

OUR people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for independence and peace is receiving a stronger and stronger support from progressives all over the world. European intellectuals, in particular, have taken a stand against the American imperialists whose crimes on our soil have shocked their conscience. While such personalities as the members of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal and the Committee to End the War and History as the most barbarous war criminals, others—many of them scientists, historians, educators, publishers—have given us active cultural help. Some of them visited our country during the US escalation came to know of our concern about the future

even in the thick of the fight. The distinguished mathematician A. Grothendieck, in a letter to the Mathematics Department of the Faculty of Sciences in Paris in December 1967, affirmed, "Our Vietnamese friends are convinced that the only truly essential asset of a country lies in the quality of its citizens, and by an undoubtedly matchless effort in history, they succeed in raising, in the teeth of everything, the cultural and professional standard of their citizens at a time when their country is extensively destroyed by physicists, historians, educators, publishers—have given us active cultural help. Some of them visited our country during the US escalation came to know of our concern about the future

UP to now the Central Scientific Library has received from the "Collectif Interdisciplinaire" a great number of scientific publications. In addition to big encyclopaedias and reference books from the best known publishing houses there have been books on basic knowledge, treatises, monographs as well as off-prints, collections of periodicals and seminar reports. This priceless solidarity which gives our people a strong fillip. Their memory will last long in the pages of all these books as well as in the minds of those who have read them. We receive books from the "Collectif Interdisciplinaire" Université d'Action pour la Paix au Viet Nam (Joint University Union Community for Action for Viet Nam Peace) has sent us thousands of valuable scientific and technical books.

Part of this gift was exhibited in the Central Scientific Library in September last. Professors, engineers, and technicians who came in great numbers to take a look at the displayed works, some of which bear inscriptions, ex libris, authors' autographs which were moving testimonies of fraternity and solidarity. The books for the revolution in the scientific and technical revolution in our country.

NGUY NHU KONTUM  
Rector  
of Hanoi University

VIET NAM COURIER

Editor's Note.— Nguyen Van Hoa (alias Theo), 15, has twice been honored "Valiant anti-US Fighter" by the and his fellow fighters have been responsible for 31 enemy casualties. Hoa alone has killed 17 adverse troops, destroyed one jeep and captured two sub-machine-guns.

The following story tells of one of the first battles of this boy in Thua Thien province.

FROM a bush Theo emerged and waved a signal. Two cadres hiding on the other side of the road sprang out and dashed forward.

When the two had caught up with him, Theo cast a knowing look at them and, pointing his finger to the post, said volubly: "That's the last post on the road. Over there is hamlet X." With a sign of his head he showed a fur-off bamboo grove.

Wagging a bamboo tube, he continued, smiling, "You're safe now. Good bye!"

Thereupon Theo hurried on by the same road, whistling all the way a favourite song. But at the gate, he sensed something had happened during his absence. He stopped in the yard and looked round, calling for "Vang," his pet dog. Silence. Normally the dog would run out to greet him with its bow-wow, wagging its short tail. Theo stood in anxiety and anticipation, then called out: "Vang... Vang..." And he called over and over.

There was no response. Theo's mother ran out from behind the house. She looked at the boy in silent sympathy then said, "This morning, shortly after you went, some Yanks showed up again. After a vain search, they took Vang away. I tried to wrest it back. They hit me in the face."

Looking up at his mother, Theo thought he could still

## Little Theo and the Yellow Dog

dog. It was the Yanks in post X that had taken away his pet, Theo surmised. He and nobody else. Angriely Theo crept into the undergrowth and pulled out an M2 carbine. But a thought flashed through his mind. His elder had told him that one could not kill many Yanks at a time with only the few carbines and hand grenades.

He missed it awfully, the little dog which had always been his companion and played with him during his leisure. No more of these noon baths and the accompanying patient flea-hunt in its woolly hair. How amusing it looked when it put its elongated muzzle into some bush and bared its small canines as if to threaten some invisible mouse.

Then turned its naughty eyes to Theo as if to boast of its alertness. He most vividly remembered the quiet afternoon when, as no artillery fire came from enemy ships, he would call the dog out into the yard and taught it to beg. He showed it how to shake hands and to trick. The dog proved a very intelligent one, and learned very quickly. Each time it did well, Theo would give him a small lump of sugar.

When shells of the enemy naval artillery tore through the air and exploded near the village, the puppy would run to Theo's mother and, pulling at the hem of her dress, would lead him into safety. Then, when puppet and American raiders came to the hamlet, "Vang" would rush out from under a tree and snap at the leg of some unfortunate soldier then vanished in a twinkling with angry grunts.

The more he thought of it the more Theo missed the dog. It was the Yanks in post X that had taken away his pet, Theo surmised. He and nobody else. Angriely Theo crept into the undergrowth and pulled out an M2 carbine. But a thought flashed through his mind. His elder had told him that one could not kill many Yanks at a time with only the few carbines and hand grenades.

Seizing the first opportunity which offered when he was assigned to escort some militants to the liberated area, Theo dropped in at an ammunition workshop where he coaxed out of Uncle Nam

three brand new foxes which would fit into his shells. Still, there were many more things which Theo could not get such as a piece of electric wire and a pair of flash light batteries. He needed not trouble about the wire since he could get it from Be, a half-fallop friend of the same guerrilla group as his. He had once seen Be with a lot of it. The hardest thing was still the cells. Batteries were so hard to come by that he would have bought Theo had not a penny for himself. What to do now? "Ah," he almost cried with joy, striking his palm on his forehead, his eyes sparkling. "I'll sell the hen and the brood." Theo pranced out of the anticipated joy of possessing the much-coveted batteries.

Having made necessary preparations for the mine attack, Theo had brief consultations with Sam and Be, two members of his guerrilla team about his plan, and asked them to provide him with supplies.

At dawn the next day after putting the shell in a hole dug on the previous night at a bend in the road, Theo went to the hole and looked into the grass the two pieces of wire whose ends branched forth into a fox-hole on a nearby hill. Leaning himself against the hole wall, Theo kept a keen eye on the enemy position. The sun had risen high, lifting the morning mist and revealing the dirt road winding past like a snake. Looking to the hill on his side, Theo could see the barrels of Sam and Be's carbines at the ready.

He felt the square battery box and rolled in his finger the ends of the wire with the same delight as when he played with his puppy. He wondered whether the dog was still alive and wished the same Yank that had taken his dog would himself ride straight into his ambush.

Theo flashed a quick smile, thinking of the bulky American soldiers whom he had met in Hue city, as gawky as a group of dinosaurs.

He stopped short and the surprise encounter frightened him. "A ghost? No, no, a man. But how could he survive the terrible mine blast?"

The two adversaries stood there facing each other for a moment. Theo was before him. The Yank stammered, "Oh, oh, you Vietcong can't! Vietcong as his hand went out he caught Be's collar. The gesture called Theo back to reality. He said aloud, "What? You try to scare me, lowest hell! Tramping his foot on the mine at the huge chest of the Yank, he fired point blank. The man uttered a horrible howl, his legs and arms in the air and collapsed like a rotten tree.

After the massacre, American and puppet soldiers broke into Cong Ho Rin to loot the people's property.

After the massacre, American and puppet soldiers broke into Cong Ho Rin to loot the people's property.

### PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

(Continued from page 2)

will make up its mind to withdraw totally and unconditionally U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

There is for the U.S. government only one honourable way out of its present Viet Nam predicament. Mr. Nuan Thuy and Mr. Tron Bui Kiem declared, that it is to give up its neo-colonial policy of aggression. A sound solution to the Viet Nam problem is to be found in the DRVN four points and NFL five points. As the US government has committed its troops to an aggression against Viet Nam, it must bring them home. Such a step is a legitimate demand not only of the Vietnamese people, but also

of the world's peoples, especially of American men and women who do not like to see their husbands and sons die a useless death in this unjust war.

The US and puppet delegates reiterated their old slanders against the DRVN, charging it with "aggression" against South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and of "violation of the DMZ." They also repeated their proposals which had been turned down many times by the DRVN and NFL delegations.

All these malicious accusations and signs of bad faith were denounced then and there by the representation of the DRVN and NFL.

### U.S. - Puppet Crimes in South Viet Nam

(Continued from page 2)

Roar No. 14. The 10,000 inhabitants of 47 neighbouring villages brought there against their will, mostly catholic, were of Se Dong nationality. They protested against such a peremptory measure and demanded to be sent back to their native village. Theo was seriously wounded. The enemy killed 350 people including Father Leonid, one of the two French parish priests.

After the massacre, American and puppet soldiers broke into Cong Ho Rin to loot the people's property.

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

Saigon area, chiefly Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh sectors, Da Nang area, the Western High Plateaux, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, the two northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam, last week were given prominence in Gial Phong Press agency.

### SAIGON REGION

**Operation Atlas Wedge at Dau Tieng:** 2,000 GIs put out of action, 210 vehicles, 30 heavy guns and mortars destroyed and 12 aircraft burnt.

Tay Ninh province: 200 adverse casualties recorded, 46 choppers downed, 50 vehicles and 10 ordnance pieces destroyed in 11 days.

Xuan Loc sector, northeast of Saigon: 8 enemy companies wiped out.

In Dau Tieng sector, "Alicia" rubber plantation, 61 km northwest of Saigon, an operation code-named *Atlas Wedge* was launched in the middle of March by two battalions of U.S. Infantry Division 1 and 25, First Air Mobile Division, and Armoured Regiment 11. The PLAF struck first and on March 17 and 18 besieged the enemy in villages No 10 and 11. 2,000 GIs put out of action, 210 vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, destroyed and 12 helicopters downed.

The attacks went on on March 19 and 20, inflicting on the enemy hundreds of casualties and the loss of many armoured cars. A small group of PLAF men, in an ambush on March 20, wiped out a U.S. motorized column by destroying its vehicles.

On March 22, the GIs retreated, hotly pursued by the patriotic forces who put out of action a company and destroyed 7 tanks in the plantation. Operation *Atlas Wedge* ended in a fiasco.

Keeping up their actions the PLAF on March 26 overran a camp of Brigade 2, First Air Mobile Division, about twenty kilometres north of Dau Tieng, killing or wounding 200 GIs and destroying 9 heavy mortars. On March 27 an armoured car park some 15 km southeast of Dau Tieng was stormed: 50 vehicles were destroyed and 2 big choppers burnt.

Thus in 11 days (March 17-27) of Operation *Atlas Wedge*, the Yankees lost over 2,000 men, 210 vehicles (mostly armoured vehicles) and 30 artillery pieces, 12 choppers and planes.

Northwest of Dau Tieng, in Tay Ninh province, many successes were recorded by the PLAF: Between March 20 and 30, On March 22, southwest of the provincial capital, about one hundred puppet paratroopers were killed or wounded and a chopper knocked down. On March 25, an attack by regional PLAF, the puppet paratroopers lost 250 men.

At Tra Cos (55 km northwest of Saigon) where a month ago 850 GIs had been put out of action in two attacks by the PLAF within 48 hours, a puppet company was wiped out on March 26 and a Cav. company badly mauled.

Two days later, on March 28 on the Tay Ninh - Dau Tieng road, the Yankees lost in two ambushes 50 vehicles (most of them armoured cars and tanks) and took many casualties.

On March 29, 20 km north of Tay Ninh town, a company of Regiment 5, First Air Mobile Division, was wiped out and on March 30, two puppet paratrooper battalions came under fire south of the town: 300 adverse casualties (2 companies wiped out) and 12 cannons destroyed.

PLAF A.A. batteries proved most effective in that province by tumbling 15 aircraft on March 20 and 21. Northeast of Saigon, in a sector north of Xuan Loc not far from Dong Nai river, the puppet troops suffered heavy setbacks between March 18 and 20: 8 companies wiped out, 32 vehicles destroyed and 12 choppers downed.

Northwest of Saigon, in Cu Chi district, between March 14 and 22, the PLAF put out of action 820 GIs, wiped out 5 American companies, destroyed 91 tanks and armoured cars and shot down 4 choppers. Further south, on March 21, the Yankees had about one hundred men killed or wounded in a battle near Duc Hoa.

Southwest, Binh Duc base of U.S. infantry Division 9 was pounded by PLAF artillery on March 20: 160 GIs put out of action, 5 million litres of fuel burned, a shell dump destroyed.

In Saigon, in the 5th district, on March 30 a police station was blown up, 4 military vehicles destroyed, many policemen killed or wounded. Three days earlier, the HQ of a puppet para-military organization in the 3rd district was dynamited.

### CENTRAL TRUNG BO

2,600 enemy casualties south of Da Nang and in Quang Nam province and 2,400 others (1,100 GIs) in 3 provinces in the Western High Plateaux.

Twenty kilometres south of Da Nang, the PLAF occupied Vinh Dien town on March 19-20 after taking a heavy toll from

the garrison and repelling repeated enemy counterattacks. In that sector from March 19 to 21, 900 GIs, South Korean and Saigon puppet troops were knocked out.

Further South, 60 km from Da Nang, around Tien Phuc sub-sector CP invested by the PLAF, from March 19 to 21, the enemy had 280 men (200 GIs) killed or wounded, 7 choppers downed and 2 armoured carriers destroyed.

In Quang Ngai province, from March 23 to 25, the PLAF assaulted a locality near the provincial capital, 122 km southwest of Da Nang. The 11 targets hit

included the airfields and a base of Brigade 1, Americal Division: 350 GIs put out of action and a fuel depot burnt. In other onsets around Quang Ngai and 4 districts of the province, from March 19 to 21, the enemy suffered 600 casualties and 4 choppers downed.

In the Western High Plateaux, in Kontum, Pleiku and Darlac provinces, between March 21 and 31, the PLAF mounted 172 attacks in which they put out of action 2,082 enemy soldiers (1,411 GIs), destroyed 26 military vehicles (9 tanks and armoured cars) and 11 ordnance pieces; 6 American companies and 2 puppet companies were wiped out, 2 U.S. motorized infantry companies decimated.

**QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN**  
800 enemy troops (650 GIs) put out of action in



Quang Tri province liberation fighters attacking the enemy

## SAIGON:

### WORKERS PERSECUTED

The Thien-Ky-Huong puppet clique illegally brought to trial on March 25 17 workers of the DACOTEX textile factory in Saigon, before the 3rd Corps Area "Field Military Court", GPA reported.

The source said that 14 of the accused received from 18 month prison terms to 7 years hard labour each, under false charges of "communist activities".

Of those sentenced to hard labour, 2 were Sin goi and 2 were Luong De, Thiet Chuy Hao and Vo Van Tat, 5 years each. Like arbitrary sentences passed recently on Buddhist Superior Thich Thien

Minh and eight Buddhist students, the unjustifiable condemnation of those 17 workers has stirred up a wave of

anger among the South Vietnamese people, especially those in the towns, GPA noted.

## Dockers Win Claims

DOCKERS striking against sackings at the U.S. military pier No.125 in Saigon have won initial success, GPA said.

The strike began early last March when the U.S. colonial charge sought to reduce working-time of hour-wage

workers and lay off redundant workers.

As a result of the dockers' energetic action, the port authorities had to agree to a maximum 11-hour workday including time for lunch and washing, the source added.